

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 SMS-01 HA-05 TRSE-00
/081 W

-----045151 311514Z /42

O R 311441Z AUG 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1484
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15875

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GW, PINR, RO
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SPY SCANDAL THREATENS BAHR, SPD

SUMMARY: A SENIOR AIDE TO EGON BAHR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE FRG'S SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) AND LONG-TIME
SPD GREY EMINENCE IN DEALINGS WITH THE EAST, IS UNDER
QUESTIONING BY FRG AUTHORITIES AS A POSSIBLE AGENT FOR
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ROMANIAN OR OTHER EASTERN INTELLIGENCE. IF A CASE
AGAINST BAHR'S AIDE MATERIALIZES, WE ANTICIPATE A MA-
JOR POLITICAL SCANDAL, SOME SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THE
SPD'S IMAGE, AND A FIELD-DAY FOR THE OPPOSITION. IF
BAHR'S AIDE IS CLEARED, THE EPISODE MAY
NONETHELESS BE A NET LOSS FOR THE SPD BY THE PUBLICITY
CAST ONCE AGAIN ON BAHR'S CONTROVERSIAL POSITION AND

ALLEGED POLITICAL VIEWS. WHILE PRESS FOCUS FOR THE MOMENT IS ON BAHR'S AIDE, THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT OTHER SPD EMPLOYEES ARE UNDER SUSPICION OF BETRAYING CONFIDENCES TO EASTERN INTELLIGENCE, ALLEGEDLY INCLUDING COLLEAGUE OF SPD BUNDESTAG CHIEF HERBERT WEHNER. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, 34-YEAR-OLD JOACHIM BROUDRE-ROEGER, OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SPD EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY EGON BAHR, WAS DETAINED BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES EARLY AUGUST 30 AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO EASTERN INTELLIGENCE. STORIES DIFFER ON WHETHER BROUDRE-GROEGER TURNED HIMSELF IN, OR WHETHER HE WAS SEIZED BY THE POLICE AT AN ADDRESS OTHER THAN HIS OWN. INFORMATION LEADING THE FRG AUTHORITIES IN BROUDRE-GROEGER'S DIRECTION REPORTEDLY STEMS FROM PUTATIVE ROMANIAN DEFECTOR ION PACEPA WHO, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS FURNISHED IT TO THE CIA. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT EGON BAHR TOLD HIS AIDE ON AUGUST 29 THAT HE WAS UNDER SUSPICION, NOTING THAT THIS APPARENT INDISCRETION HAS ANGERED FEDERAL AUTHORITIES CONNECTED WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT PACEPA DID NOT PROVIDE WESTERN INTELLIGENCE WITH NAMES, INCLUDING BROUDRE-GROEGER'S. RATHER, AMONG OTHER ITEMS, HE SUPPLIED INCONFIDENTIAL

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FORMATION WHICH AROUSED FRG SUSPICION OF A SOURCE IN HIGHLY-PLACED GOVERNMENTAL OR PARTY CIRCLES, LEADING INTER ALIA TO BROUDRE-GROEGER. DIE WELT SEEKS TO LINK SUCH INFORMATION WITH RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS ON EGON BAHR'S ALLEGED THINKING, SAYING THAT "THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED AUGUST 14 THAT, ACCORDING TO 'SECRET SOURCES', BAHR AND OTHER SPD POLITICIANS HAD SOUGHT TO PRODUCE A POLICY IN BONN BY WHICH THE FRG, IN EXCHANGE FOR A SOVIET NONAGGRESSION GUARANTEE, WOULD LEAVE NATO

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-----045266 311515Z /42

O R 311441Z AUG 78 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1485

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15875

AND THUS OPEN THE DOOR TO GERMAN REUNIFICATION." DIE
WELT ALSO REPORTS THAT SIX OTHER PERSONS ARE UNDER SUS-
PICION OF ESPOINAGE, INCLUDING COLLEAGUE OF SPD BUNDESTAG
CAUCUS LEADER HERBERT WEHNER.

3. ON AUGUST 30, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SPD EXECUTIVE COM-
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MITTEE STATED THAT THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ARE PRO-
PERLY FOLLOWING UP ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY A ROMANIAN
DEFECTOR, WHICH HOWEVER, ALSO INCLUDES "INEXACT INFORMA-
TION". THE SPOKESMAN ALSO STATED THAT BAHR AND HIS AIDE
ARE GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES IN THE INTEREST

OF A PROMPT AND FULL INVESTIGATION. BAHR HIMSELF STA-
TED THAT HE STANDS BEHIND HIS AIDE, WHO REMAINS IN HIS
JOB.

4. COMMENT: INFORMATION ON THE MATTER OF BRODRE-GROEGER AND OTHERS POSSIBLY UNDER SUSPICION IS SCANT, AND COMMENTATORS ARE DRAWING NO RASH CONCLUSIONS ON WHETHER SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS WILL INDICATE GUILT, INNOCENCE, OR AMBIGUITY. THERE IS ALSO CONFUSION ON WHETHER ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE OR BROADER SOVIET/WARSAW PACT RECIPIENTS OF INFORMATION MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED, AND ON WHETHER SUCH INFORMATION MAY HAVE BEEN SUBVERSIVELY CONVEYED OR GIVEN FOR LEGITIMATE MOTIVES AS PART OF DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS.

5. THERE IS ALSO A MYSTERY-NOVEL ASPECT TO THIS AFFAIR WHICH TAKES ITS FLAVOR FROM BAHR'S OWN CONTROVERSIAL STANDING IN THE FRG. LONG SEEN AS THE MYSTERY-MAN AND GREY EMINENCE OF FRG EAST-WEST RELATIONS, BAHR HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF CONSERVATIVE CRITICISM FOR A DECADE AND HAS OFTEN BEEN CHARACTERISED AS SEEKING A NEUTRALIZED CENTRAL EUROPE (INCLUDING BY AMERICAN ACADEMIC WALTER HAHN IN A CELEBRATED 1973 ARTICLE IN ORBIS). THAT HIS CLOSEST AIDE COULD BE AN EASTERN AGENT IS SOMETHING STRAIGHT OUT OF ERIC AMBLER, AND VARIOUS FRG PUNDITS ARE FINDING AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE COMPARISONS WITH THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR WHICH UNMASKED A CLOSE AIDE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BAHR'S MENTOR, WILLY BRANDT, AS AN EAST GERMAN AGENT. SIMILAR EXOTIC CONSIDERATIONS WOULD APPLY SHOULD AN INVESTIGATION BE STARTED ON COLLEAGUE OF HERBERT WEHNER, THE 73-YEAR-OLD FORMER COMMUNIST, STERN PARLIAMENTARY DISCIPLINARIAN, AND, LIKE BAHR, A MAN WITH HIS OWN LONG-STANDING AND CONTROVERSIAL CONTACTS WITH THE EAST.

6. BEYOND THE UNCERTAINTY AND SENSATIONALISM OF THIS NASCENT AFFAIR IS THE THREAT OF REAL DAMAGE TO THE SPD SHOULD OFFICIAL CHARGES AGAINST BROUDRE-GROEGER OR OTHERS IN A SIMILAR POSITION EMERGE, NOT TO SPEAK OF FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE FRG'S REPUTATION AS A FACILE TARGET FOR EASTERN PENETRATION. SHOULD THERE BE A VALID SPY CASE IN HIGH SPD CIRCLES, SCHMIDT MAY BE FACED WITH A TOUGHER PROBLEM THAN THE LUTZE-WIEGEL CASE WHICH LED TO DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S RESIGNATION. THIS WILL BE BECAUSE, ESPIONAGE APART, OLD SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF HIS PARTY AND ITS LEFT WILL BE AROUSED, GIVING THE OPPOSITION A BETTER TARGET FOR CRITICISM THAN ANY THEY NOW HAVE. CONSEQUENCES FOR THE TWO KEY STATE ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER WOULD THEN BE HARD TO PREDICT, AS WOULD LONGER-TERM DYNAMICS WITHIN THE SPD PARTY STRUCTURE AND HIERARCHY ITSELF. IN SUM, SCHMIDT, NOW AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY, MIGHT SUDDENLY FIND HIS PARTY AND GOVERNMENT THREATENED

BY A SCANDAL WITH UNUSUALLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL AND
IDEOLOGICAL OVERTONES. MEEHAN

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